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COUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Indications of the Beginning of a Fall Maneuver of the Eighth Gds ArmyEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 19 October 1955

REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

25X1

1. troop trains between 30 September and 3 October 1955:

25X1

CB - converted boxcar
B - boxcar
F - flatcar

Date	Number of Troop Trains	Number of Cars	From	To	
30 September	1	15 CB, 2 B, 40 F	Aken	Orlamuende	1
	1	11 CB, 1 B, 41 F	Dessau	Kahla	1
1 October	3	31 CB, 10 B, 132 F	Rathenow	Triptis	2
	6	67 CB, 14 B, 279 F	Altengrabow	Triptis	2
	1	9 CB, 3 B, 32 F	Aken	Ohrdruf	1
	1	4 CB, 1 B, 48 F	Dessau	Kahla	1
2 October	1	10 CB, 3 B, 42 F	Altengrabow	Triptis	2
	4	36 CB, 9 B, 150 F	Altengrabow	Weida	2
3 October	1	7 CB, 12 B, 26 F	Altengrabow	Ohrdruf	2
	1	3 CB, 3 B, 14 F	Brandenburg	Erfurt	2
	1	3 CB, 3 B, 14 F	Stendal	Erfurt	

25X1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1

25X1

2. [redacted] troop trains
on 1, 2 and 3 October:

Date in October	Composition of Troop Trains	From	To
night of 1	undetermined with 24 x 85-mm AA guns	Rostock	Poessneck
night of 2	undetermined with 16 x 76-mm AA guns	Neubukow	Goeschwitz
	5 CB, 2 B, 29 F with 16 x 76-mm AA guns	Neubukow	Goeschwitz
	6 CB, 3 B, 29 F with 16 x 76-mm AA guns	Kroepelin	Goeschwitz
	undetermined with 24 x 76-mm AT guns	Rostock	Poessneck
	undetermined with 16 x 76-mm AT guns	Rostock	Poessneck
night of 3	9 CB, 1 B, 28 F with 24 x 76-mm AT guns	Rostock	Poessneck
	11 CB, 1 B, 30 F with 30 x 152-mm field howitzers	Rostock	Poessneck
	10 CB, 4 B, 32 F with 16 x 122-mm field howitzers	Rostock	Poessneck
	10 CB, 8 B, 32 F	Rostock	Poessneck
	15 CB, 35 F	Rostock	Poessneck

3. [redacted] a column of 18 to 20 heavy tanks and escort vehicles went through Weissenfels and drove toward Naumburg on the evening of 28 and 29 September.⁵ At about 1300 on 1 October, a troop train of 13 CB with soldiers and an undetermined number of F with 7 rocket launchers, 6 amphibious cars and 38 trucks passed through the Weissenfels railroad station and went toward Erfurt.² At about 2000, two additional troop trains with tanks allegedly passed through Weissenfels and proceeded toward Erfurt.⁵

4. At about 0900 on 30 September, a troop train of 6 B with soldiers and an undetermined number of F with 6 tank trucks, 3 radio trucks, 4 command trucks and 1 truck was loaded at the Brandenburg-Altstadt railroad station. The troop train left toward Erfurt.²

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

- 3 -

5. At about noon on 30 September, about 20 sedans which belonged to Soviet officers were loaded at the Weimar railroad station. The shipment probably left toward Weissenfels. ⁶ At about 1700 on 3 October, a troop train of 8 B occupied by soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, and an undetermined number of F with 12 mortars, probably 160 mm, 15 YA-12 prime movers, 20 to 25 trucks and 2 repair shop trucks was observed at the Gera railroad station. The train went toward Gera-Sued. At 1830, 10 artillery pieces were entrained at the Gera railroad station. A similar type of artillery was observed at the Goeschwitz railroad station on the same day. ~~It~~ could not be determined if they had been loaded or unloaded. ⁵

6. At about 1500 on 1 October, four buses left Weimar and drove westward. ⁶

7. At 0700 on 3 October, 20 motor vehicles left the Barbara Kaserne (8384) in Naumburg. Between 0800 and 0900, 72 vehicles, including a large number of sedans, ~~left the Naumburg railroad station and traveled between Naumburg and Naumburg.~~ ⁷ ~~The soldiers who rode on the vehicles carried full load packs. An additional number of 16~~ motor vehicles, including large radio trucks and several sedans, were observed on the same road. All soldiers had a red star painted on their steel helmets. On 1, 2 and 3 October, only a sentry and a few officers were seen at the Oberlandesgericht (8387) in Naumburg. ⁷

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8. Since 2 October, field exercises have been held in the area of Grosseutersdorf-Kahla-Rothenstein west of the Saale River. The following details were observed: Grosseutersdorf was guarded by sentries with red-bordered black epaulets who wore steel helmets. A signal station was erected 500 meters east of Eichberg. Eight soldiers with blue-bordered black epaulets were seen at the installation. Six camouflaged medium artillery pieces were seen standing 1.5 kilometers west-northwest of Eichberg together with 4 searchlights and 1 range finder which had no camouflage. Four additional artillery pieces, 4 searchlights, 1 range finder and 2 large tents for 30 to 40 soldiers each were seen 1 kilometer northwest of Kahla. Eleven carefully camouflaged tanks stood in the woods south of this place. ⁸

9. At about 1900 on 5 October, 16 x 152-mm gun howitzers and 20 trucks from the Reuss Kaserne (8141) were entrained at the Gera railroad station. On the morning of 6 October, 15 x 100-mm AT guns were seen at that kaserne. ⁹

1. Comment. The troop trains probably carried engineer units of the Eighth Gds Army which moved from the engineer training area Dessau - Aken to a fall maneuver of the army.

25X1

2. Comment. The troop trains probably carried components of the 6th Arty Div which participated in the fall maneuver of the Eighth Gds Army. The troop train which went from Rathenow to Triptis and the rocket launchers which passed Weissenfels indicate that elements of the 25th Gds RL Brie of this division also participated.

25X1

25X1

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

- 4 -

25X1

3. Comment. The troop trains from Rostock lead to the assumption that the fall maneuver of the Eighth Gds Army also included the 3d Gds AT Brig. Since the weapons reported, however, are not believed to belong to this brigade, the pertinent observations were probably incorrect. If the observation of 24 x 85-mm AA guns on the troop train during the night of 1 October 1955 was accurate, this train may have been carried AAA units of the Eighth Gds Army which were dispatched from Wustrow.
4. Comment. The troop train probably carried AAA units of the Eighth Gds Army which came from Wustrow and were to participate in the fall maneuver.
5. Comment. The movement probably included units which went to the army fall maneuvers by road and by rail.
6. Comment. The vehicles probably belonged to elements of the army headquarters.
7. Comment. The observation indicates that the 27th Gds Sig Bn of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps from the Barbara Kaserne in Naumburg and elements of the Hq 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div left for the fall maneuver of the army. The Hq XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps probably went from its summer camp directly to the field exercise area.
8. Comment. The observations in the Kahla area indicate that the Saale River will be crossed during the fall maneuver of the Eighth Gds Army.
9. Comment. The bulk of the 308th Arty Brig of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps from the Reuss Kaserne in Gera probably also participated in the fall maneuver.

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